

Protocol for fatality reviews as of 1/1/11

All instances in which the child's death appears to be a direct result of abuse or neglect will be reviewed internally.

Any youth who dies while in the custody of DCS, even if on trial home pass.

In addition to cases in which the death or near death is clearly a result of abuse or neglect, we will review any child under the age of two years for which this is the second involvement and all cases that have had 3 or more previous investigations/assessments (regardless of child's age).

The review will seek to determine:

- What lessons can we garner from the history the family has had with DCS?
- What "self-care" measures do we have in place for our staff working these challenging cases?
- If child dies as result of abuse or neglect- did the siblings get medical evaluations completed?
- Has grief support been offered to parents/or siblings?
- If child died and siblings have been placed with relatives, did we do background checks and get drug screens for relatives?

Review Team Composition: Cases that involve a custodial child at the time of the fatality or near-fatality is comprised of a larger, executive team that may include other divisions, such as representatives from the Well-Being Unit, Permanency Unit, and Juvenile Justice Unit in addition to the Office of Child Safety and Continuous Quality Improvement divisions.